

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 25, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-14 were rejected. Applicants have herein amended the specification to provide a new title of the invention and the PCT application number of the international application on which this application is based. The specification has also been amended to include a description of the elements corresponding to several reference numerals in Figure 1B. Claims 1-14 remain in this application. Claims 1-12 have been amended. Applicants have also amended Figure 1B to correct a reference numeral and added a new Figure 2A. No new matter is introduced as a result of these amendments, support for which is found within the specification as filed. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-14 as set forth in the Office Action are overcome, and the claims as amended are allowable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

A. Drawings

Figure 1B stands objected to for non-compliance with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and (5). Applicants have herein entered amendments to Figure 1B to correct an erroneous reference numeral. Applicants have also added pertinent description of elements in Figure 1B referred to by those reference numerals not previously mentioned in the specification. As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections.

Figure 2A is added to illustrate pictorially an embodiment of the invention described in the specification as filed at page 14, lines 17-24. The nature of the subject matter described admits of illustration by a drawing, and Fig. 2A aids in the understanding of the subject matter. Support for Fig. 2A is found at the cited portion of the specification as filed. No new matter is introduced by way of Figure 2A, because it merely described in pictorial form what has been fully disclosed in the specification as filed, i.e., the portable device being

coupled directly to a USB port of the host platform via the USB plug of the portable device. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow entry of this drawing amendment. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 113 and 37 CFR § 608.02.

B. Specification

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner stated that the title of the invention as filed, namely: “A Portable Data Storage and Image Recording Device Capable of Direct Connection to a Computer USB Port,” is not descriptive. Applicants have amended the specification to provide a new title of the invention: “Portable Camera Device for Capturing Image and/or Audio Information Capable of Operation with a Host Platform and Method for same.” Approval of this new title is earnestly requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). In connection therewith, Applicants have amended the specification to provide the PCT application number (PCT/SG00/00029) of the international application on which this application is based. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner noted that certain reference numerals in Figure 1B that were not mentioned in the description. Applicants have rectified this deficiency by amending the specification to include a description of the elements in Figure 1B referred to by these reference numerals. As such, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

C. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

1. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-232769 A (“Gotanda”)

Claims 1-3, 8-9 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Gotanda*. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s reading of the

disclosure in *Gotanda* and submit that *Gotanda* fails to teach or disclose various claimed limitations of claims 1-3, 8-9 and 12-13 as amended herein.

As amended, claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

1. A portable camera device capable of operation with a host platform, the portable camera device comprising:
a housing;
a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable camera device to facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to a USB socket of the host platform;

(emphasis added). Claims 10 and 12 also include a corresponding claim limitation as presented above.

Applicants respectfully point out that the present application describes a portable camera device that has a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the device to facilitate direct coupling of the device via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform. *See, e.g.*, Figure 2; page 14, lines 17-24. Claim 1 as amended is directed to precisely this. Applicants respectfully submit that while *Gotanda* describes a digital camera, it fails to teach a portable camera device that has a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the device to facilitate direct coupling of the device via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

Specifically, element 46 as shown in *Gotanda* is a USB socket (*see* Figure 2), not a USB plug as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Moreover, element 46 in *Gotanda* is located at what appears to be a base or cradle for the camera, and not on the camera itself. Furthermore, the Examiner did not identify any disclosure in *Gotanda* that teaches direct coupling of the camera to a host platform by way of a USB plug that is integrally adapted to the housing of the camera. In contrast, claim 1 of the present application requires a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable camera device, and that the portable camera device be capable of direct coupling to a USB socket of

the host platform via the USB plug. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Gotanda* does not teach or disclose this claim limitation of claim 1.

Since *Gotanda* does not teach or disclose a USB plug that is integrally adapted to the housing of a portable camera device, *Gotanda* also necessarily fails to teach or disclose a non-volatile memory that is in communication with the USB plug of the portable camera device, as required by claim 1.

The Examiner stated that element 65 in Fig.4 of *Gotanda* teaches that image data is formatted by the *Gotanda* device into a compatible file format for the host platform. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner did not specifically identify any disclosure in *Gotanda* that teaches formatting image and/or audio data in a standard file format compatible with the host platform, which is another claim limitation of claim 1. Without more, element 65 of *Gotanda* in and of itself cannot be considered to teach or disclose this claim limitation.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that *Gotanda* fails to teach or disclose the claim limitations of claim 1 of the present application.

As for claim 2, Applicants have explained above that element 15 in Fig. 1 of *Gotanda* is a removable memory card and does not teach the non-volatile memory that is integrally formed with a digital camera.

As for claim 3, Applicants have explained above that element 46 in Fig. 2 of *Gotanda* is a USB port on a base or cradle for the camera. It does not teach or disclose a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of a portable camera device that is capable of coupling to a USB port of the host platform.

As for claim 12, for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that *Gotanda* fails to teach or disclose a method for capturing image and/or audio data using a portable camera device that includes a housing and a USB

plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to a USB socket of the host platform.

In view of the foregoing, *Gotanda* does not anticipate amended claims 1 and 12 of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 12 and all pending claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-3, 8-9 and 13, are patentable over *Gotanda*.

Applicant's reserve the right to swear behind this or any other reference.

2. **U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0145507 A1** ("*Foster*")

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Foster*.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Foster* fails to teach or disclose the use of a digital camera having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate direct coupling of the digital camera via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform, as required by claim 14 as amended herein.

As amended, claim 14 recites, in pertinent part:

14. A method of authenticating an operator seeking access to information on a storage medium, comprising the steps of:
capturing image and/or audio identification data via a digital camera, *said digital camera having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate direct coupling of the digital camera via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform;*

(emphasis added).

As discussed above, the present application describes a portable camera device that has a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate direct coupling of the device via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform. The present application also teaches that the portable camera device can be used to accept identification information for authentication purposes. *See, e.g.*, page 15, line 21 to page 16, line 10. Claim 14 as amended is directed to a method implementing such an authentication scheme using the digital camera described in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that while *Foster*

describes a biometric security system, it fails to teach a digital camera that has a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate direct coupling of the camera via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is patentable over *Foster*.

D. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-7 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gotanda*. As explained above in Section C, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reading of the disclosure in *Gotanda* and submit that *Gotanda* fails to teach or disclose various claimed limitations of claim 1 as amended herein. Claims 4-7 depend from claim 1, and as such for at least the same reasons as presented above in Section 3, claims 4-7 are patentable over *Gotanda*.

Claim 10 includes the same limitation as in claim 1 that the claimed portable camera device has a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate direct coupling of the device via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform. Thus, claim 10 is also patentable over *Gotanda* for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. Since claim 11 depends from claim 10, claim 11 is also patentable over *Gotanda*.

Additionally, the present application teaches, and claim 10 expressly claims, that a flexible communications cable be used in an embodiment of the present invention to coupled the portable camera device to the host platform, such that the camera device is movable with respect to the non-volatile memory (*see, e.g.,* page 14, line 25 to page 15, line 4). Not only does *Gotanda* not teach the use of a flexible communications cable, as the Examiner admitted, but *Gotanda* also fails to teach or disclose using a flexible cable between a digital camera and a host platform to allow for a high degree of flexibility and freedom for image

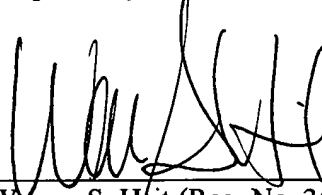
and/or audio data capture. This is yet another reason that claim 10 is patentable over *Gotanda*. The same rationale applies to claim 11, which depends from claim 10.

G. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that with the instant amendments, all of the objections and rejections to the drawings and the pending claims are overcome, and that claims 1-14 are patentable over the cited art of record. If prosecution of this application can be expedited through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below. Otherwise, early notification of allowance of claims 1-14 is earnestly requested.

Attached hereto is a petition for extension of time for three (3) months. In connection therewith, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) to White & Case LLP Deposit Account No. 23-1703. Applicants are unaware of any other fees due at this time. However, if other fees are due for this extension or any other matter concerning this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fees to the above-listed Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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